

V. 9 Feb 87

NORTH AFRICA

Q 1

ALGERIA

Bendjedid Chairs Party Political Bureau Meeting
LD071421 Algiers APS in English 1229 GMT 7 Feb 87

["Communique of the Political Bureau of the FLN Party" — APS headline]

[Text] Algiers, 7 Feb 87 (APS) — The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of FLN Party met on Thursday under the chairmanship of President Chadli Bendjedid president of the Republic, FLN party secretary general. The Political Bureau dealt with many questions relating to the state of the nation.

Within the framework of the regular follow-up of the implementation of decisions aimed at the reorganization of the national economy and the promotion of the country's accelerated development the Political Bureau expressed satisfaction with the mobilization of the country's energies and optimal use of its capacities.

Besides, the Political Bureau examined the evolution of the situation in the Arab world, particularly in the light of the objectives of the activities and the results of President Chadli Bendjedid's visits in Syria and Kuwait. In this context the Political Bureau praised the concentration and convergence of points of views of the Algerian and Syrian political leaderships on a big number of problems raging in the Arab world and the means to solve them within the framework of an Arab collective action.

The Political Bureau also expressed satisfaction about all the efforts made in order to convene an Arab summit to which Algeria is firmly attached and about all the actions aiming at reinforcing the inter-Arab relations and rostering the Palestinian resistance unity.

The Political Bureau also acknowledged the results of the mission of the committee of good offices aiming at putting an end to the clashes around the Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

The Political Bureau also examined the results of the summit of the non-aligned committee of the solidarity fund with the front line countries and the southern African movements of liberation.

Apartheid being a crime against humanity, the Political Bureau called the international community to contribute with those who directly fight it, and reaffirm Algeria's constant commitment to contribute to the eradication of apartheid and for the national liberation in southern Africa.

The Political Bureau also examined the progress of the situation in Chad, and reiterated its conviction that the political settlement of this conflict goes through the respect of the African plan prepared by the bureau of the OAU 19th summit and the resolutions adopted in this context by the [words indistinct] African organization summit.

The Political Bureau also listened to a report on the visit in Algeria of the UN secretary general.

In this regard, it reaffirmed Algeria's attachment to the UN ideals and values and expressed its support and encouragements to the UN secretary general's efforts.

LIBYA

U.S. Makes 'Terrorist' Show of Force Off Lebanon
LD071616 Tripoli JANA in English 1415 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Text] Damascus, al-Nowar 7, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The American Administration escalated tension in the Middle East as two units of American infantry forces consisting of 900 each joined the American naval forces while American warships continued terrorist show of force off the Lebanese shores.

The French news agency reported that a Pentagon source had stated that the two units will use the landing ships.

Meanwhile, a number of American warships including the aircraft carrier *Nimitz* continued sailing in the eastern Mediterranean.

USSR Science Academy Official on Ties, U.S. Raid
LD061827 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Feb 87

[Text] Tripoli, [no date as received] Dr Aleksandr Khokhlov, USSR Academy of Sciences candidate member and deputy director of the Board of the USSR Academy [titles as received], has condemned the U.S.-NATO abortive aggression against the people of the Great Jamahiriya last April. In an interview today with the television program "Good Morning First Jamahiriya," Dr Khokhlov added that such an aggression was one of the methods used by the U.S. Administration all over the world against peoples that reject its hegemony. He pointed out that Soviet scientists have affirmed their condemnation of this treacherous aggression, whose victims were innocent people.

Concerning scientific cooperation between the USSR Academy of Sciences and scientific institutions in the Great Jamahiriya, Dr Khokhlov stressed that his visit, with the accompanying delegation, falls within the framework of consolidating and developing scientific cooperation between the two friendly countries, meeting researchers in the spheres of natural and human sciences, signing an agreement to undertake joint scientific researches, holding scientific symposiums, giving lectures, and exchanging data and scientific references within the framework of agreed scientific programs between the two friendly countries, the Great Jamahiriya and the Soviet Union.

Al-Qadhdhafi Demands French Withdrawal From Chad
PM061202 Paris LE MONDE in French 6 Feb 87 pp 1,3

[Interview with Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi by Alain Frachon near Surt on 4 February]

[Text] Region of Surt — His tone was rather weary and disappointed in view of this misunderstanding. However, Col al-Qadhdhafi stuck to his guns: There is no Libyan interven-

BF

V. 9 Feb 87

Q 2

NORTH AFRICA

tion in Chad. On the other hand there is a French military presence in that country that threatens Libya's southern border. The colonel had decided to relax late that afternoon, 4 February. After a football game, he intended to play billiards in the cafeteria of a revolutionary committee barracks somewhere in Surt, not far from a military base around 300 km east of Tripoli. But because two French journalists had been invited, he was prepared to leave the billiard table for a moment and, still dressed in a dark red velour tracksuit, give them a 1-hour lesson in Chadian geopolitics — this is apparently now his main concern and he does not intend to discuss any other subject.

The man who was said to be depressed, tired, and divorced from state affairs since the U.S. raid on 15 April, seemed to be in good shape and more confident than ever of his power. He arrived at the barracks in a white Range-rover accompanied by a few young militiamen. He was relaxed, wore a calm and charming smile, and seemed completely at ease. The colonel sat at an ordinary table and remained completely calm as he explained his arguments on the Chadian affair as if they were self-evident — an affair that is causing serious tension between Tripoli and Paris at present.

According to him, this tension is entirely attributable to President Hissein Habre's regime and to the military support it receives from France and the United States. Libya, he said, "has no intention of intervening in Chad. Reports of the build-up of Libyan troops in northern Chad" — there are reportedly around 10,000 men there — "are lies: The Libyan troops are in the Tibesti mountains on the Libyan side." He said that reports that the Libyan Air Force recently made regular bombing raids on Zouar and Fada in northern Chad, which were recaptured in January by Ndjamena's forces are: "Vulgar rumors that are totally unfounded and have simply been dreamed up in Ndjamena."

If there is a confrontation, Col al-Qadhdhafi continued, "it will be Paris' fault," because "Habre, supported by France and the United States, says he intends to invade Aozou (disputed region on the border between the two countries — *Le Monde* editor's note) which is an integral part of Libyan territory."

In view of this situation and "the threat to its territory, Libya must prepare to defend itself; these are not veiled threats on my part," he said, "I am simply exercising the right to self-defense." The Libyan head of state added: "After all, nobody is threatening to march on Toulon and Marseilles with Libya's support." That is true, but Libyan soldiers were taken prisoner during the recent fighting in northern Chad and were shown to the press in Ndjamena. This point did not rattle the colonel, who said without hesitating: "The situation is very complex. The two peoples are one people, all the Chadian tribes have relatives in Libya and vice versa; it is difficult to separate them; one third of the Chadian people live in Libya."

The colonel did not deny that there has nonetheless been a limited Libyan intervention in Tibesti. It took place after internal divisions within the National Unity Transition Government [GUNT], the Chadian opposition (in northern Chad); when GUNT leader Goukouni Oueddei was ousted last November and replaced by the faction headed by Acheikh ibn Oumar there was

a clash between the two factions. "We had to intervene then to help a team of Libyan aid workers working with the GUNT, but we have no intention of going to fight in Tibesti....," Col al-Qadhdhafi asserted.

Moreover, he said, the fighting that has taken place in recent weeks has not involved the Libyans who, according to Paris, occupy several places in northern Chad. The fighting has been between Habre's forces and GUNT forces. Moreover, the details of these events do not interest the colonel who insisted, however, on delivering a "message to France."

"I want to say to the French people that there are no defense agreements or security treaties between France and Chad that justify the presence of French troops in that country; and I challenge the French Government to publish any such document. This is why the French presence in Chad is a colonial presence."

[Frachon] What is your view of the situation in Chad?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] There is no government in Ndjamena, but a French Army of occupation. Habre is a tribal chief at war with other tribes.... Habre can only be the chief of the region in which his tribe lives.... I have nothing personal against him, but he can only be a gang leader; France ought to be ashamed of supporting such a man....

[Frachon] What is the state of your relations with Goukouni Oueddei? He is said to have been under house arrest in Tripoli since his forces rallied with Ndjamena's forces.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] He is an ally, a friend, and a brother. To say that he is under house arrest is a lie; we were forced to take measures to protect him when he was ousted as GUNT leader. And there has probably been some misunderstanding about him. We recognize him as chief of Tibesti, and he will never allow Hissein Habre in that region.

[Frachon] So, who do you recognize as having national stature?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The new GUNT headed by Acheikh ibn Oumar contains elements that have some political sense and do not have the others' tribal attitude.

[Frachon] What might happen in the near future? What are you going to do?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I hope our French friends will quietly withdraw. If they want to become bogged down they simply have to advance.... They will be victims of the serious internal conflict the Chadians are going to experience; the confrontation may degenerate into a people's war against the French Army. With all due respect to Mitterrand and Chirac and their stance on the international scene, I advise France to withdraw from Chad."

JANA on French Deployment of Forces in Chad
LD071146 Tripoli JANA in English 1115 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Text] Paris, Al-Nowar 7, *Jamahiriya News Agency* — Reports from Ndjamena asserted that the airport there saw yesterday an